

STATE: Virginia  
 COUNTY: Petersburg (in cit.)  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: 69-06-45-00226  
 DATE: 11/69

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME  
 COMMON: Exchange Building  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Merchant's Exchange Building

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 15-19 W. Bank Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg  
 STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: (in cit.) CODE: 730

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: a

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Police Station	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Court	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNERS NAME: City of Petersburg  
 STREET AND NUMBER: City Ball  
 CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC.: Clerk's Office of Hustings Court  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 45  
 APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/3 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal  State  County  Local   
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Petersburg (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-06-45-0022	6/11/69

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #123-51  
1967  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Exchange Building is a freely rendered Greek Revival structure featuring a finely executed Doric portico. The building is two-stories on a high basement with the second floor windows contained in the frieze of the entablature. Although the entrance facade is five bays wide, the portico shelters only the central three bays. The side elevations also contain five bays but these are more widely spaced and are separated by pilasters. The building is topped by a hipped roof and a large shallow dome with lantern.

The principal interior feature of the Exchange is the central circular domed room. The dome rests on an entablature supported by piers. Behind the piers is a gallery with a very simple iron railing. Despite the fact that the building has served as a bank, and more recently a police court, the interior of the Exchange has survived without serious alteration.

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Merchant's Exchange Building (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

In the first half of the 19th century a building type that was virtually indispensable to the successful conduct of business in commercial centers was the Merchants Exchange. In these buildings bulk commodities such as tobacco, cotton and grain were sold from the wholesaler to the retailer or from the grower to the manufacturer. Some of the country's best known architects such as Benjamin Henry Latrobe, William Strickland, and Isaiah Rogers turned their hands to the design of Merchant's Exchanges. However because these buildings were most frequently located in fast developing downtown areas very few of them have survived. The best known extant example is Strickland's Merchants Exchange in Philadelphia. However, the original interiors of this building have been completely altered to provide modern office space.

The Exchange in Petersburg, Virginia, built in 1841 and designed by Mr. Berrien of New York, is a boldly detailed building in the Greek Revival Style. Rectangular on the exterior with a tetrastyle Doric entrance portico, the interior discloses a central two-story rotunda rising to a dome and octagonal lantern. The Exchange in Petersburg is most probably the last, unaltered Merchants Exchange in existence in the United States.

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1841

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Among the original incorporators of the Petersburg Exchange in 1839 was David Dunlop, a prominent Petersburg tobacco manufacturer. A group of local businessmen were desirous of having such a building - intending that it serve to display tobacco and cotton as well as provide a place to hold auctions and sales. The design was supplied by a Mr. Berrien of New York, and completed by 1841. The Exchange presently serves the Domestic Relations and Police Court Departments of Petersburg.

The Exchange Building is a fine model of the more monumental Greek Revival commercial buildings which have become so rare. It stands as an example of the civic pride of the ante-bellum period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, Virginia Museum, 1968.

Scott, James G. and Edward A. Wyatt, IV, Petersburg's Story. Petersburg: Titmus Optical Company, 1960.

Biallas, Randall, "The Exchange", Historic American Buildings Survey Report 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37 °	13 ' 55 "	77 ° 24' 16 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: April 21, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Edw. P. Alexander, Jr.  
Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.  
Date: May 20, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Grant Allen Gussler  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUN 11 1969

ATTEST:  
William J. [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUN 11 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Hals

CITY OF PETERSBURG

Virginia State College

APPOMATTOX

Lat. 37° 13' 55"  
Long. 77° 24' 16"

Courthouse

WESTERN AVENUE

WASHINGTON STREET

142

Water

Collins Sch.

Peabody Sch.

Weston

Water Tank

West End Park

Water Tank

AND WESTERN

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON

Water Tank

West End Park

Water Tank

OF PETERSBURG

APPROXIMATE

170 NATIONAL

MILITARY

MONUMENT

Lee Memorial Park

Petersburg County

Water

Collins Sch.

Peabody Sch.

Weston

Water Tank

West End Park

Water Tank

PETERSBURG

GEORGE CO

Monument

Monument